GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:520
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2017
Base Transreceiver Stations
Charitra Shri Ram

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telecom service providers have installed more than 130,000 additional Base Transreceiver Stations (BTS) across the country between June to October, 2016 and plan to install more than 150,000 more BTS till March, 2017;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has warned the telecom service providers with slapping penalty and other action in case consumers continue to face call drops and call failures; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) to (d) The Government has been periodically conducting the review of the call drop situation in the country and has been stressing upon the service providers to undertake qualitative improvement of mobile services and reduce call drop rate so that they could comply with the benchmarks prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). Due to the periodic review and persuasion the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have made continuous efforts for continued expansion of their network. As a result, additional Base Transceiver Station (BTS) have been installed by the TSPs for 2G / 3G/ 4G cellular mobile services. The details are as below:
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Period Number of 2G/3G/4G BTSs added
June to August 2016 96,472
September 2016 23,669
October 2016 25,395
November 2016 22,631
December 2016 20,861
January 2017 21,055
February 2017 20,440
March 2017 29,970
April 2017 26,078
Total 2,86,571

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The notified benchmarks for Quality of Services in case of Basic and Cellular Mobile Services are assessed through submission of monthly/ quarterly Performance Monitoring Reports (PMR) by the service providers and the compliance status is published on TRAI's website (www.trai.gov.in). The Quality of Service (QoS) parameters being monitored by TRAI, inter-alia, include Network Availability and call drop rate.
The Standards of Quality of Service of Basic Telephone Service (wire line) and Cellular Mobile Telephone Service Regulations, 2009 (as amended) also provides for financial disincentives to Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), who fail to meet the benchmark parameters prescribed by TRAI or fail to submit compliance report to TRAI. So far, financial disincentives of Rs 17.375Crore have been collected by TRAI from TSPs.